



**URBAN FORESTRY BOARD
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, April 18, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Brewer called the Board Meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Vice Chair Tom Hayes, Peggy Maceo, Nick Classen, Ryan Fleming, Christopher Kite, April Rose

Staff in Attendance:

**Parks and Recreation Department: Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager
Gwendolyn McGee, Administrative Specialist
Gilbert Hernandez, Contract Compliance Specialist
Senior**

Ray Henning-Austin Energy, Line Clearance Superintendent

Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department

1. Approve the minutes of the Urban Forestry Board's regular meeting of March 21, 2012.

The minutes for the Urban Forestry Board's March 21, 2012 regular meeting, were approved with the following amendment to the draft minutes (the date referencing the approval of minutes be changed from March 21, 2012, to February 15, 2012 to reflect the correct date of the February meeting). Minutes were approved with changes on Board Member Rose's motion, Board Member Kite's second, on a 7-0 vote.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Sharon Blythe

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Brewer announced Walter Passmore would be leaving the City of Austin and this would be his last meeting.

Walter Passmore made an announcement to the board concerning an graphic insert in the agenda packet as a result of the weed ordinance the Board had previously reviewed.

Walter Passmore also announced the hiring of Nancy Dowling as Forestry Department's Administrative Assistant.

4. STAFF BRIEFINGS

- a.** Gilbert Hernandez – Contract Compliance Specialist Senior, Parks and Recreation Department, presented a briefing regarding the cemetery contract, and cemetery trees.
- b.** Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department presented his monthly update.

- c. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department presented a briefing to the Board regarding the Downtown Tree Inventory
- d. Michael Embesi, City Arborist, Planning and Development Review Department presented a briefing to the Board regarding the status of the recommendations advised by the Tree Task Force.
- e. Ray Henning, Line Clearance Superintendent, Austin Energy, presented his monthly report.
- f. Board Member Rose presented a briefing to the Board regarding the City Neighborhood Street Tree planting program.

5. EXECUTIVE LIAISON'S REPORT

Walter Passmore, Urban Forestry Program Manager, presented briefings on the following items:

- a. Comprehensive Urban Forest Plan report on public meeting and survey
- b. Urban Forestry Program staff changes, Angela Hanson will be the acting program manager, until the hiring of a new manager.

6. NEW BUSINESS - DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

- a. **Discuss and take possible action regarding the buffered zones along all trails that are close to streams.**

Working Group appointed by Board Chair Brewer to review and give a report at the June board meeting.

- b. **Discussion on review of current plans for public tree watering and recommend changes or additions to city watering plans by Board Member Classen.**

Motion to postpone item until next month by Board Member Classen, 2nd by Board Member Fleming approved 7-0 vote.

- c. **Discuss and take possible action regarding the Board's purview to include the entire Urban Forest on both public and private parcels**

Motion to postpone time until next month by Board Member Classen, 2nd by Board Member Fleming approved 7-0 vote.

- d. **Discuss and submit a letter to the PARD Planning, Design, and Construction Department regarding purchasing property on Bolm Rd for the purpose of preserving the tree.**

Motion to submit letter regarding purchasing property on Bolm Rd to protect tree to the City's Real Estate Department by Vice Chair Hayes, 2nd by Board Member Maceo, approved 6-0 Board Classen off dais. A substitute motion was made by Vice Chair Hayes to submit the letter with amendments that may include purchasing of adjacent property with trees, 2nd by Board Member Maceo, approve 6-0 Board Member Classen off dais

7. FUTURE ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

- a. Discussion on review of current plans for public tree watering.
- b. Discussion and action regarding the Urban Forestry Board's purview to include the entire Urban Forest.
- c. Barton Springs Tree Management Initiative

ADJOURNMENT

Board Chair Brewere adjourned the meeting without objection at 7:35 p.m.